

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 FEA-02 DRC-01 /237 W

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R 080955Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5774

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASCN, TH

SUBJ: ASEAN COORDINATION AND SECRETARIAT

REF: STATE 169116

1. THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 7 THAT ASEAN, AS AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE UNIFIED POSITION OF THE FIVE MEMBER COUNTRIES, HAS SO FAR NEGOTIATED ONLY WITH THE EEC, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. HE DESCRIBED ASEAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EEC AS A "TRIAL BALLON" AND SAID HE KNEW OF NO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHERE THE FIVE COUNTRIES WERE BEING REPRESENTED BY ASEAN.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MFA OFFICIAL, THE PHILIPPINE MFA UNDER SECRETARY IS TIED UP WITH THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, AND THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST IN KUALA LUMPUR, WHICH WAS TO STUDY THE STRUCURE OF THE SECRE-
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TARIAT, HAS BEEN POSTPONED. THE SENIOR OFFICIALS' CONFERENCE

SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER IN BANGKOK WILL NOW DISCUSS BOTH THE NEUTRALIZATION SCHEME AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT. NO DATE FOR THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SET.

3. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID SINGAPORE HAS SUGGESTED THE SECRETARIAT COMPRISE ONLY THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND A FEW CLERKS WHILE JAKARTA HAS SUGGESTED IT INCLUDE THE SECRETARY GENERAL, FIVE DEPUTIES (ONE FROM EACH MEMBER COUNTRY) AND A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE STAFF. THE THAI PROPOSE A SECRETARIAT STAFF COMPOSED OF: THE SECRETARY GENERAL, TWO DEPUTIES, AND A MIDDLE-LEVEL STAFF. THE THAI ENVISION THE SECRETARIAT AS (A) A SCREENING BODY FOR AID AND ASSISTANCE FROM COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE ASEAN; AND (B) A CONTACT POINT FOR OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS AND COUNTRIES AS WELL AS A COORDINATOR TO ACHIEVE UNIFIED POSITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ENTERED INTO BY ASEAN AS A WHOLE.

4. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THE THAI WOULD SUPPORT A FILIPINO FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY GENERAL, IF THE PHILIPPINES NOMINATE A CANDIDATE. THE THAI HOPE THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND WORKING SMOOTHLY IN TIME FOR THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO12855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740216-1194
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740865/aaaacdvd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 169116
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN COORDINATION AND SECRETARIAT
TAGS: EGEN, AORG, TH, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005